

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell having a cation exchange membrane made of a perfluorocarbon polymer having sulfonic acid groups as an electrolyte, 5 wherein the cation exchange membrane has been stretched and has a larger surface area than it had before the stretching.

2. The solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell according to Claim 1, wherein the cation exchange membrane has a 10 surface area which is 5 to 100% larger than it had before the stretching.

3. The solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell according to Claim 1, wherein the cation exchange membrane has been stretched by drying the cation exchange membrane at a 15 high water content while fixing the periphery of the membrane.

4. The solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell according to Claim 1, wherein the cation exchange membrane has been stretched biaxially.

20 5. The solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell according to Claim 1, wherein the perfluorocarbon polymer is a copolymer comprising polymerization units derived from $\text{CF}_2=\text{CF}_2$ and polymerization units derived from $\text{CF}_2=\text{CF}-$ $(\text{OCF}_2\text{CF}_X)_m-\text{O}_p-(\text{CF}_2)_n-\text{SO}_3\text{H}$ (wherein X is a fluorine atom or 25 a trifluoromethyl group, m is an integer of from 0 to 3, n is an integer of from 0 to 12, and p is 0 or 1, provided that when n=0, p=0).

6. The solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell according to Claim 1, wherein the cation exchange membrane contains from 0.1 to 50 mass% of fibrils, a woven fabric or a nonwoven fabric made of a fluorine-containing polymer.

5 7. A method of producing a solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell having a cation exchange membrane made of a perfluorocarbon polymer having sulfonic acid groups as an electrolyte and gas diffusion electrodes on both sides of the electrolyte, which comprising stretching a membrane

10 made of a perfluorocarbon polymer having sulfonic acid groups to increase the surface area from the original surface area and placing gas diffusion electrodes on both sides of the membrane to use the membrane as the cation exchange membrane.

15 8. The method of producing a solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell according to Claim 7, wherein the surface area of the membrane is increased by 5 to 100% by stretching.

9. The method of producing a solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell according to Claim 7, wherein the membrane is

20 stretched biaxially.

10. The method of producing a solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell according to Claim 9, wherein the membrane is stretched biaxially after extensible films are placed on both sides of the membrane.